

REMARKS

This communication is in further response to the Examiner's non-final Office Action dated November 7, 2006, in addition to the Response to Office Action filed April 6, 2007. The contents of the April 6, 2007 Response to Office Action are incorporated herein. Kindly note, however, that the April 6, 2007 Response contains a typographical error on page 7, line 19 - "0.65-1.6%" tin should be -- 0.65-0.85% --.

Interview

The Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a personal interview on May 2, 2007 and subsequently informally via telephone and electronic mail. The Examiner and the Applicants' representative discussed the rejections made in the November 7, 2006 non-final Office Action, the Mardon '048 reference, interpretation of the Applicants' specification, and a proposed amendment to the claims. Further specific details of the interview are presented below.

Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended the independent claims (claims 13, 35, 38, and 41) to include a recitation that "a majority component of" the cladding tube is made of the inventive alloy. As discussed in the interview and in the accompanying Declaration of Mr. Magnus Limbäck, the inventive alloy comprises the main component of the cladding tube, not merely an inner or outer liner layer. No new matter is added. Entry and allowance of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132

Filed concurrently herewith is a Declaration of Magnus Limbäck Under 37 CFR 1.132. As discussed during the interview, the Declaration explains how a person having experience in

the field of nuclear fuel would interpret the instant specification. Entry and consideration of the Declaration are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The April 6, 2007 Response to Office Action referenced articles by Rosenbaum *et al.* and Dahlbäck *et al.* and indicated that relevant portions of these articles were being disclosed.

Through unintentional error, no disclosure statement was filed. The Applicants regret this omission and apologize for any inconvenience. The articles are disclosed in the accompanying disclosure statement.

Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Bingham McCutchen LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (order no. 4193780011).

Please note that this is a new deposit account relative to previously filed communications.

Conclusion

Claims 13, 35, 38, and 41 have been added. Claims 13, 22, 23, and 35-43 are pending in the application, and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims.

Should the Examiner feel further communication would help prosecution, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean P. O'Hanlon
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Dated: May 24, 2007

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